

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of the previous rejection on the basis of arguments made. New ground of rejection have now been made with the added reference of Stinson, U.S. Patent 3,019,486.

The newly cited patent has now been reviewed in detail in the context of the other cited references. The applicants believe that the claims, as amended, are patentably distinctive thereover for the reasons to be discussed hereinbelow.

The previously cited references of McIlwraith, Van Benthem and Brown have been previously discussed and are recognized as having no living hinge but rather conventional hinges for securing the panels to the frames. The Stinson reference shows a plastic hinge, which is described by the Examiner as a "living hinge". The Stinson hinge is primarily described as an isolated hinge without reference to the manner or the structure with which it is used. However, it would appear from Figs. 7 and 8 that the suggested means of attaching the hinge to the mating components is by way of bolts or screws that pass through the perforations 19 in the hinge. Thus, even if the Stinson hinge is obviously adaptable to use with either the Van Benthem or McIlwraith assemblies, as suggested by the Examiner, the combination would not result in the invention as shown and claimed by the applicants.

As will be seen in Fig. 5 of the applicant's specification, and as now recited in claim 17, the living hinge includes an edge extrusion that is integrally formed with said hinged panel perimeter member, a mounting flange connected to said side pieces said frame, and a hinge section for connecting the edge extrusion and the mounting flange together. Clearly, this is not shown nor suggested by any of the references taken individually or in combination.

The Examiner has said that "once the hinge of Stinson '486 is connected to the hinged panel of McIlwraith the elements are considered to be "integrally" connected". Although it may be argued that such is the case, clearly, the living hinge would not include an edge extrusion that is integrally formed with said hinged panel perimeter member as recited in claim 17. That is, the only interconnection that is

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suggested by the Stinson reference or any of the other cited references, is by fastening the hinge to the panel by way of fasteners or the like. There is no showing or suggestion that the living hinge be integrally formed with any portion of the panel, and in fact, there appears to be a teaching away from such a feature since those references only show a mechanical connection between those elements.

For the reasons discussed hereinabove, the applicants believe that the claims, as amended, are patentably distinctive over the cited references. A reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection and a passing of the case to issue is therefore respectfully requested.


If the Examiner wishes to expedite disposition of the above-captioned patent application, he is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

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